



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 24.14 Thursday, April 5, 2018

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Two cats rescued from blazing house fire



Independent photo by James Otzman

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

Two cats were reported inside the house at 205 Roland Street in the city of Belleville when fire erupted at about 3:52 p.m. Friday.

Belleville Police Officer Sarah Dzagulones entered the home that was filling with smoke and carried out a black cat. She was holding it upside down and when she passed it on to a person outside, it got away, but was caught and put in a carrier.

She reentered the house, went upstairs and looked under the bed, where the owners said the other cat might be located, but the smoke was getting too thick and she couldn't see, so she left the house. She said she left all doors ajar so the missing cat could escape.

Belleville Fire Chief Brian Loranger said



Independent photo by James Otzman



Photo courtesy of Richard Smith

after the fire was extinguished, fire fighters found the second cat in the kitchen, wet but alive.

Chief Loranger said at first it was said the homeowner was trying to remove insects from the attic with smoke and that is what started the fire. But, Chief Loranger said when fire fighters returned Friday night to deal with a "hot spot" they were able to see that an electrical outlet on the first floor was blackened and it is now believed to be the source of the fire.

Chief Loranger told the city council on Monday that the old house had a lathe and plaster construction with drywall on top and balloon construction. The fire

went upward inside the walls to the three separate attic spaces and to the roof where it erupted in flames.

He said in older homes there is nothing to keep the fires from traveling upward inside the walls. Also, he said, often old homes have old electrical systems. He said a couple of circuit breakers had tripped.

Belleville Fire Department called in mutual aid requests to Van Buren Township and Sumpter fire departments, who arrived at once. Chief Loranger said the old fire hydrant that was just 50 feet from the fire truck didn't have a large enough feed, so they had to attach to another hydrant at the

(continued on page 17)

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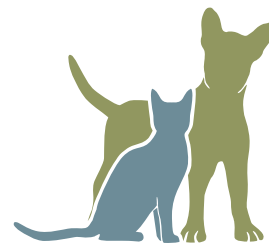
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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Here's the cast and crew of "Into the Woods" being presented at the Belleville High School Auditorium starting April 13. In front, from left, are Sydni Flint, Dillon Phon, Isabelle Schakel, Dani Guevera, Joe Budd, Collin Bishop, Amy Empson, and Alyssa Church. In the second row, from left, are Brad McDermot, Kayla Germain, Shelby Sanders, Hailey Janney, Jamie Jozwiak, Kersten Slabey, Madison Lieb, Julia Lind, Brianna Sykes, Melanie Roza, and Jacob Joanis. In the back row are, from left, Michael Novay, Frankie Cramer, Sarah Flange, Jahnvi Rambus, Zandalee Henderson, Taylor Duncan, Katie Russell, Tre'ondis Snodgrass, Hannah Costa, Payton Dixon, Chantel Campbell, and Matthew Cox. Show dates are: 7 p.m. on April 13 and 14; and 2 p.m. April 15. Also, 7 p.m. April 20, and 2 and 7 p.m. on April 21. Tickets are available at Showtix4U.com and at the door one hour before show time.

Belleville opens two bids for seawall repair, may consider other option

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

In December the city of Belleville received a single bid of \$341,000 for Doane's Landing seawall repair. That was too much, so they changed the specifications some and went out for bids again.

On Monday, Clerk Sherri Scharf opened two new bids for seawall repair, one for \$365,589 from Todd Services of Hamburg, MI and one for \$295,000 from Lakeside Landscaping of Taylor.

Fire Chief Brian Loranger said he would give the administration his personal opinion on one of the bidders in private.

When asked why a landscaping company would be eligible to fix a seawall, DPW Director Rick Rutherford said no one invited to bid did not have proper credentials for the work.

Adam Younglove of Michigan Marine Dredging Co. of South Rockwood was in the audience. He said he did not bid because he did not think the job needed everything in the bid specifications.

He asked if they had considered repair instead of rebuilding, which he felt was called for. He said poor engineering and poor work were what led to the present problem. The quality of the metal is good, he said.

"The workmanship and engineering are at fault and we felt it could be repaired," Younglove said.

Rutherford said the city had no information on the engineering of the seawall and he depended on the geotechnical studies.

He asked Younglove to get a proposal together and he would have the geotechnical engineer assess it.

"We will entertain whatever," Rutherford said.

Rutherford said when the seawall was installed, before his time, they didn't have the proper hammers and they cut the tops off when they couldn't hammer it down. The top failed, but the bottom is holding.

He said the engineers felt they should drive in new sheets.

Younglove estimated that \$90,000 worth of work would repair both the city and condo seawalls, and he went through what would be done.

He said also the geotech fabric and peagravel would be put in place so the water from the surface has a place to go.

"It got top-heavy," Younglove said.

Rutherford said the rods were undersized, too, and the openings for them were much bigger showing they were for bigger rods.

"The thing isn't even welded together," Younglove said.

"With the proper 'deadman' it wouldn't

have failed," said Chris Zweng.

The council voted to turn the bids over to the administration to assess and also look at other options.

Councilman Tom Fielder mentioned the time factor and, "We have to move forward."

In other business at Monday's hour-long meeting, the council:

- Called a public hearing for 7:30 p.m., May 7 to consider any objections to the vacation of Fourth Street from the alley to Charles Street for the library construction;

- Passed resolutions to approve the Definitive Transfer Agreement with Wayne County for the Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority and authorize the city's representative to vote for the agreement when it comes before the DUWA board. Mayor Kereen Conley is city representative and Rutherford is backup rep.;

- Approved the preliminary timetable for work on the 2018-19 city budget. The proposed budget will be presented to the council at a special meeting at 6 p.m., Monday, April 30, and then discussed at 6 p.m., May 7. Further meetings may be set in the future, leading up to the June 4 public hearing and adoption of the budget;

- Approved accounts payable of \$70,206.72 and the following purchases in

excess of \$500: to Blue Ribbon Contracting, \$8,330 for sewer repair on N. Liberty and \$3,090 for sewer repair on Edison; to Tri Co. Water & Sewer, \$2,800 for city hall plumbing repair in the women's bathroom and \$1,100 for replacement of tile in the women's bathroom at city hall; and to Wise Technologies, \$651.22 for computers / network;

- Heard an update on the proposed community garden and directed those working on the project to get a detailed recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission to present to the city council;

- Discussed the continued delayed completion of the city's web site redesign that was contracted for in August. City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said they need panoramic pictures of the city and if she can't find people who will provide them without charge, they may have to hire a photographer. Fire Chief Loranger asked if the site couldn't go up without pictures which could be added at a later time. "Seems like it's been a long time ... this didn't happen at the speed contracted for," he said. Kollmeyer said she is not sure it's their fault and it is partially the city's fault. She said Townweb doesn't know the city and the city had to come up with

(continued on page 14)

OPINIONS

Editorial

Delaney: There's a storm brewing in Van Buren Twp.

Another raucous meeting in Van Buren Township. On Tuesday, Channel 4 interviewed VBT Trustee Sherry Frazier at the board table before the meeting started and then recorded part of the board meeting before leaving.

John Delaney, a township resident who has been absent from the last few board meetings but usually is around to comment on activities, warned the supervisor that there was a storm brewing in the township.

He said the media was called in before the meeting and that shouldn't be done. He referred to previous years when recall elections were held after the storms brewed and Detroit media was called in.

"This backstabbing needs to stop," he said. "Stop doing this garbage!"

Trustee Miller said there was an insinuation that somebody called the media and, "I didn't." Trustee Frazier said somebody did and Delaney agreed. Supervisor McNamara said he didn't call the media.

Later McNamara said to Frazier, "Three weeks ago, you knew ... I warned you it would happen..." He referred to the media and a shoplifting charge against Frazier that was due to go to court the next day.

"There is a storm brewing," Frazier replied. "Unless the supervisor does something about it." Clerk Wright has been targeted recently for his out-of-state trips and now the storm is brewing Frazier's way.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Belleville's Mayor Pro Tem Jack Loria is a former city fire chief and he was out there helping fire fighters at Friday's house fire. He brought air tanks out and laid them in a row on the front lawn of the house for easy access by the fire fighters if they needed them.

His son, Mike Loria, is a full-time fire fighter in another department and Mike was there helping with the helmets on other fire fighters.

Everybody pitched in to help.

A fire in the foundation of lot 93 at 14788 Burlwood in the Cobblestone development was called into the Van Buren Township Fire Department between 3:30 and 4 p.m. on March 28.

VBT Fire Chief Amy Brow said the person who called in the fire was very specific, which was unusual. Apparently, someone had decided to burn some materials in an open basement.

Later that day I heard another call, this one for arcing wires down in another open basement, this one on Cobblestone.

We received an email asking if there is some kind of clause where Van Buren Township is off the hook for paying health care cost if retired police officer Robert Greene is convicted. According to our salaries list, Greene gets \$26,850.93 a year from VBT taxpayers for health care.

Our writer referred to last week's front page story about Greene's arrest.

Someone showed me a business card that announced Ken Bednard is running for Sumpter Township treasurer in the next



election.

Because Treasurer Peggy Morgan, Clerk Esther Hurst, and Trustee Sheena Barnes were appointed to their positions, they have to run for election to keep their seats and that starts with the August election.

Deputy Clerk Dawn Hadyniak explained it all to me. Those three sitting candidates are Democrats so they will be on the Aug. 7 primary ballot along with any other Democrats, Republicans, or Libertarians filing. One from each party will be on the Nov. 6 ballot for each seat along with any Independents (no party) or representatives of other parties that file.

The November election will determine the final winner for each of the three seats.

I didn't notice which party, if any, Ken Bednard was filing in.

Email on Monday: "Sad to see that the metal horse in front of Belle Tire will be moving on to greener pastures. I have taken to calling him 'Rusty.' I was always curious why the bench location favored the southern view of a northbound horse."

On Tuesday morning at about 8:28, Sumpter Fire Fighters were dispatched to a building fire at the northwest corner of Oakville Waltz and Sumpter roads, the location of the former Barnes party store.

When emergency crews arrived they found the building was not on fire, but there was a small brush fire behind the

building. Sigh of relief.

At the Bugles Across American event Sunday in Belleville, I was talking with retired Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor. I told him that Belleville Police Officer Sarah had saved a cat in Friday's fire.

He said he recently saved a Teddy bear. He said he was patrolling in his part-time police job in Carleton when he saw a little girl having a problem. She had been throwing her Teddy bear up in the air as she walked along and it got stuck in a tree. So, she threw her shoe up in the tree to get the bear loose and her shoe also got stuck in the tree.

Officer Taylor got a rod out of the scout car and extended it to get the bear out of the tree and then also to get the shoe out.

He wrote up this event as "Saving Teddy Bear." When his chief questioned the notation, Officer Taylor explained. He said his chief said, "You know I'm going to have to present the police report to the council."

Former Chief Taylor noted in passing that he recently got a special bit of mail from the Michigan governor commending him for saving the life of a teenage girl who was about to get hit by a train in Carleton.



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BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT

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— Albert Einstein

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."
-- Albert Einstein



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Letters

Calling all Rosies, Rosebuds, and Rivets

To the editor:

Calling All Rosie's, Rosebuds, and Rivets! The Belleville Area Museum Needs You!

Was your mother, grandmother, or sister a Rosie? During World War II increased numbers of women went in to fill the spaces left open by their male peers who had gone off to war.

Rosie the Riveter was a name given to us by wartime propaganda in an effort to get women into the workforce. Naomi Parker Fraley was the original face of Rosie the industrial worker, however today we know that women contributed to the war effort in a myriad of ways including: volunteer services for the American Red Cross, by cultivating Victory Gardens, or simply working in any industry that was previously male-dominated.

Does this sound like someone you know? If so, YOUR local history museum would like to hear from you as we construct our Tri-Community Rosie's Exhibit. Simply gather up photos, documents, clothing, and any assorted memorabilia (new and old) and bring them to The BAM! They will be on temporary loan for this very special exhibit from June through September.

For those who would like to create a photo and/or document collage we will also provide you with poster-boards to create your one-of-a-kind tribute to your Rosie.

Also, on June 2, The BAM will host a *Night Under the Stars Fundraiser* for the Willow Run Tribute Rosie Drill Team. The team will be representing the Tri-Community as well as Original Rosie's, at our nation's Independence Day Parade on July 4th.

Katie Dallos, director
Belleville Area Museum
405 Main St., Belleville
(734) 697-1944

Help celebrate 20 years of Rosie association

To the editor:

American Rosie the Riveter Association, an organization of women who worked to support the war effort during WWII, will have our 20th-anniversary convention in the fabulous City of New Orleans on June 1-3 at the Hampton Inn Convention Center.

Come join us and if you're not able to come with a Rosie, come celebrate the legacy of these remarkable working women of World War II. This will be a special year for us -- don't miss it! Last year in Kansas

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City we had 30 original Rosies present and the group of Rosies, families, and friends represented 23 States.

We have a membership of almost 6,000, but we are still trying to locate other women who worked on the home front during WWII. Many women worked as riveters, welders, electricians, inspectors in plants, sewing clothing and parachutes for the military, ordnance workers, rolling bandages, clerical and farming. Many others worked as volunteers collecting scrap metals and other critical materials.

If you are a woman who worked during WWII (or the descendant of a woman who worked during WWII), we invite you to join our organization and receive a certificate and quarterly news letter. You will find an application on our website www.rosietheriveter.net.

We are a patriotic/non-profit organization whose purpose is to recognize and preserve the history and legacy of such women. We were founded in 1998 by Dr. Frances Carter, Birmingham, Alabama. Current elected officers from Georgia, Maryland, Missouri, Texas, and Alabama all serve on a volunteer basis.

Mabel W. Myrick (a Rosie)
Corresponding Secretary
American Rosie the Riveter Association
P.O. Box 188
Kimberly, AL 35091
mm041926@aol.com

Help us make a true community garden

To the editor:

We are group of energetic citizens who would like to develop a community garden. We are just in the preliminary plans and are looking for a few people who would like to form a governing board.

We want this to be a true community garden -- by the community and for the community.

If you are a gardener and would like to be on the board please contact Juli Balestrieri at (734) 644-3624 or e-mail teacher.juli@fumcnpreschool.com.

After we form the governing board we will plan a community meeting for those who are interested in gardening, but not necessarily being on the board.

Like us on Facebook -- Belleville Community Garden, Twitter --Bellevillecom1 and Instagram -- Belleville Com Garden. Come join the fun.

Juli Balestrieri
Belleville

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Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Sunday, April 8** – Free Sunday Music, 2-5 p.m., at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township. Music today by Southern Xpress. Information: Jimmy Baleja, (734) 223-4824 or Lynette Jordan, (734) 699-8918.

• **Monday, April 9** – State Rep. Erika Geiss, D-Taylor, will hold a coffee hour 1-2 p.m. at the Romulus Senior Center, 36525 Bibbins St. Her district includes part of Van Buren Township.

• **Tuesday, April 10** – Beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the BYC, benefit to raise money for a boy at Rawsonville Elementary School who is fighting cancer. All the food and other items are donated, so all the money raised goes to the boy's family. There is a place to drop off donations at the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, as well.

• **Wednesday, April 11** -- Chicken Supper at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston, 5 p.m. until sold out. Carry outs start at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person; children 12 and under \$5 each. Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, biscuits & gravy, cole slaw, dessert, coffee, hot tea, milk. Information: (734) 654-9020.

• **Wednesday, April 11** -- Bookbinding Class at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library. Age 8 and up. Learn how books are made and make your own blank book using a Japanese stab binding technique. All materials provided. Call (699-3291) or stop by the library to register.

• **Wednesday, April 11** – Area Women's Club annual Spring Fashion Show at Woodlands of Van Buren, 39670 Ecorse Rd. Tickets \$40. Cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., fashion show at 8 p.m., with fashions provided by Dress Barn. Proceeds benefit the Community and Education Fund. Tickets available from club members and at Garden Fantasy on Main.

• **Thursday, April 12** – At 7 p.m., the Homegrown Knowledge series, sponsored by Friends of the Belleville Area District Library, presents various guest speakers describing the history of the Belleville library. Bring your own stories and pictures of the library. Refreshments.

• **Saturday, April 14** – Belleville Area District Library ceremonial groundbreaking for the new library building, 11 a.m. on Fourth Street in downtown Belleville. Speeches, refreshments, and prizes for kids. Family-friendly event.

• **Saturday, April 14** – Knights of Columbus and St. Anthony Men's Club are sponsoring a Vocations Dinner and silent raffle in support of the seminarians at Sacred Heart, Detroit, the future priests in the Archdiocese of Detroit. It's at St. Anthony, Belleville, parish family center. Doors open at 6 p.m., with dinner at 7:30 and a program to follow. Tickets are \$15 per person. Tickets available through any one of the Knights or Men's Club members or call (734) 347-0426 or email alatiw@mikofc.org.

Birthdays

March 14 -- Loren Roderick
April 1 -- Joanne Posegay
April 6 -- Edwin Convery, Joan Bodnar, Madison Buxton
April 7 -- Rosemary Fitzsimmons
April 9 -- Tina Brooks Green
April 12 -- David Parrott, Pat Richards
April 13 -- Dina Dunt

April 15 -- Heather McArthur
April 22 -- Elliot Sala, Sarah Atwood

Do you have a birthday in April? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

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• Tuesday, April 10 – Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals at 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, April 11 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

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Obituaries

ROBERT DAVID GENDRON
(March 22, 1949 - April 1, 2018)
Age 69, of Hudson, FL. Survived by mother Annabelle Gendron of Belleville; siblings Patricia, George, James, Mary; daughter Christina. Funeral mass was April 4.
David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

CLYDE WILLIAM GUENTHER, JR.
(June 12, 1931 - March 30, 2018)
Age 86, a lifelong Van Buren Township resident. Survived by sons Kenneth and Steven; step-grandchildren; step-great-grandchildren; and sister Sally. Services were April 4 at David C. Brown Funeral Home.

JOETTE PAULEY
(December 12, 1935 - March 26, 2018)
Age 82 of Van Buren Township. Will be transported to Bailey Funeral Home of Elkhorn, KY, (606) 754-4132. No public services planned at this time. Local arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.
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More Letters

You can help small child with new TALK project

To the editor:

I'd like to introduce you to TALK!

The first five years of a child's life are the most important. With the help of partners across Washtenaw County, the Ypsilanti District Library has created a free text messaging service called TALK that gives parents fun and easy brain-building activities to try with their little ones.

Parents and caregivers who sign up for TALK will receive two text messages a week. The messages remind parents to talk, sing, read, write, and play with their child every day -- activities that are proven to help kids be ready to read and succeed in school!

Anyone with a child 5 years old and under who lives in Washtenaw County can sign up by texting TALK to 77453 or visiting our website: www.texttlearn.com

We need your help to make sure this program reaches families in Washtenaw County. We have provided TALK handouts and posters to be put up where families are likely to see them...

Please send an email with any questions or requests to talk@ypsilibrary.org.

Thank you for helping build the littlest brains in our community -- you are a valuable partner!

Gillian Ream Gainsley
Communications Coordinator
Ypsilanti District Library
talk@ypsilibrary.org
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Sumpter Twp. accepts insurance proposal from Burnham Flower

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its March 27 meeting, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees unanimously accepted the insurance package presented for \$118,224 from John Johnson of Burnham & Flower Insurance Group.

Last year's annual premium was \$131,440 and the premium in 2007 was \$222,497.

Burnham & Flower has been the township's insurance company for 20 years and part of the Michigan Township Participating Plan much of that time. Larry Clever, the longtime agent, has retired and Jeff McCray took a position with the Par Plan.

This insurance renewal takes effect April 1.

The new agent is John Johnson who explained the premium drop is because the township is limiting claims and over the last five to ten years claims have dropped significantly.

He said safety risk and safety grants to the township have totaled \$10,000 and they have implemented a dividend program that returned just below \$17,000 last year.

Johnson said the program supplies broad coverage for general liability, wrongful acts, law enforcement, fire department, vehicles, buildings, and, new this year, AD&D (accidental death and dismemberment) for the board. He said also new this year is non-monetary defense coverage.

He said his firm comes out and counsels the township on needed changes and offers seminars. He said a look at the five- and ten-year claims history has caused the reduction in premium.

Township attorney Rob Young said Sumpter has been accused of having excessive claims and that the insurance company was going to drop the township. This proves otherwise, he said.

Trustee Matthew Oddy said the premium actually is \$102,000 if the township gets \$16,000 back in premium. He said the township would pay less now than in 1999 when they paid \$111,000 and didn't get a premium.

John Johnston of Nickel & Saph representing Trident Insurance Company quoted a premium of \$107,900 plus another \$780 to cover the clerk, deputy clerk, treasurer, and deputy treasurer.

He said his firm is a part of the Michigan Township Association and covers more than 100 different municipalities. He also

gave a comprehensive report on what his insurance program covered.

In other business at the March 27 meeting, the board:

- Approved the rezoning of 3.655 acres of property split from the southwest corner of 48651 Harris Road from the existing Single Family Residential (R-2) zoning district to the Agricultural (AG) zoning district with the dimensions not to exceed 419 feet by 380 feet, as recommended by the planning commission;

- Approved the planning commission's recommendation to approve a special land use permit to allow a 175-foot communication tower facility, contingent on rezoning of the property to AG and township planner's recommendations;

- Heard Trustee Don LaPorte, who is board liaison to the police and fire departments, announce he was stepping down as health and safety officer for the fire department and will just be a fire fighter and focus on his services to the community. He said he was not at the fire department as much as needed because there was too much on his plate, such as being a good husband and going to Ford Motor Co. "I apologize to the fire fighters for not being here when they needed me. I hope the chief will find someone to appoint for this position";

- Approved the request of Collin Lynch to be demoted from lieutenant to fire fighter. Trustee LaPorte said Lynch volunteered his demotion because he didn't have time to be a good father and didn't have time any more to do the extra work at the fire department;

- Approved attorney Young's report which was a brief statement on how he will be negotiating with Republic Waste and the Belleville Area District Library and how he will bring a report on new legislation. Then he gave the floor to Public Safety Director Eric Luke who presented a request for \$2,196.84 in expenditures for a switch for a computer network and another piece of equipment. Having the new switch on site April 3 would save money because the IT person will be present when other equipment is being installed. Director Luke said it's on this coming year's budget, but if he waited until after the budget was in effect to get the expenditure approved it would be too late. He said the new price is \$600 cheaper than it was in January. Director Luke's request was not on the agenda, but it was approved as part of the approval of Young's attorney report;

- Heard resident Mary Ban announce she is still receiving mail with a Van Buren Township address, although she lives in Sumpter Township and had always, until now, had a Belleville address. She said she has left messages for VBT Clerk Leon Wright, who initiated the change of some 48111 addresses to Van Buren Township designation, but he had not responded. She said now most of her family's mail has the Van Buren Township designation; and

- Watched Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis demonstrate the ADA-operated back door to the meeting room that was recently installed. Armatis also told of the March 29 noon pie tasting that requires a four-pack of toilet paper to taste a piece of pie. The toilet paper is for the township's community outreach program. There also was to be an auction for full pies requiring toilet paper entry.

Hardy, Williams inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA -- The following local residents were recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines.

Leah Hardy of Belleville was initiated at University of Michigan.

LeDeanea Williams of Belleville was initiated at Eastern Michigan University.

These residents are among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership.

Graduate students in the top 10% of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of Marcus L. Urann who had

a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."



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Sumpter Township accepts \$12.8 million budget for 2018-19

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After a public hearing on March 27, the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees unanimously accepted a \$12,790,996 proposed budget for fiscal year 2018-19 that was to begin April 1.

Sumpter Finance Director Scott A. Holtz, who was hired Oct. 16 to replace the retiring director, presented the proposed budget during the public hearing. While in the past Jim Glahn, CPA, presented a booklet of charts and reports on separate budgets at the budget hearing, Holtz presented one page.

The total budget revenues were: general fund, \$4,974,995; fire fund, \$580,050; police fund, \$1,082,850; royalties, \$2,604,000; rubbish fund, \$331,400; water fund, \$3,177,701; and other governmental funds, \$40,000, totaling \$12,790,996.

Expenses totaled \$12,516,234, leaving a \$274,762 surplus.

General Fund

Holtz presented a verbal summary of the budget, noting expense projections for the general fund were decreased by 3.3% for the upcoming budget year. He said they are directly related to Auditing Services (\$25,000), salary savings of the financial director position (\$13,185 salary

and benefits), and one-time capital projects budgeted in the 2017-18 budget year.

General fund revenue projections were decreased by 3%, directly related to not transferring as much to the general fund from the royalties fund (\$280,000).

Some of the general fund expenses planned are upgrades to the township board room and police equipment:

- Eleven new board chairs to replace worn and broken chairs currently used - \$3,300;
- Two flat-panel monitors for viewing presentations during meetings - \$4,000;
- Upgrade of microphone system in township board room - \$11,000;
- Upgrade of cable station equipment for broadcasting - \$15,000 (paid by royalties from cable access fees);
- BS&A Purchasing Module - \$8,100;
- Eight in-car mobile tactical computers - \$34,700 (paid through Forfeiture Fund);
- Thirteen body armor vests - \$9,200 (paid through Forfeiture Funds with possible Department of Justice grant to pay for half);
- Two Ford Interceptor Utilities Police Vehicles - \$64,850; and
- One hundred new folding chairs for the Senior Center - \$2,900.

Fire Fund

Under the Fire Fund, Holtz said revenue projections were decreased by 6.1% and this is directly related to the one-time grant for turnout gear. Expenses are also decreased 13.4% to save for a new fire truck earmarked for 2020.

Other expenses planned for the Fire Fund are \$26,000 for fixing tanker truck, \$5,000 lockers for station #2, and \$7,000

for rescue stabilization bars.

Holtz said currently there are drain issues at Station #1. The current bid to fix it is more than a year old and is between \$7,600 and \$11,100. He said he has recommended that they complete a new request for proposals, complete with a pre-bid meeting to answer questions by contractors. The amount is not included in the proposed budget. When the recommendation is presented to the board, he will include a recommended budget adjustment to fund this project.

Police Fund

Holtz said revenue projections were increased by 11% and directly related to the increase in Taxable Value (2.1%) and the payment of Delinquent Property Tax from the prior year (historically 8%).

Expenses also increased 7.7% which related to the transfer to the General Fund to cover additional expenses within the department.

Royalty Revenues

Holtz reported that royalty revenues from the landfill are flat. For the 2017-18 budget year, Sumpter received four payments that were less than the prior budget year, but still has received \$83,835 increase over the prior budget year.

Expenses are decreased by 2.3% which is directly related to the decreased transfer to general fund.

Holtz reported that methane gas royalties are not at a break-even point at the landfill, so there are no royalties from the methane.

Rubbish Fund

Holtz reported revenue projections were increased by 16.3% and are directly related to the increase that was approved on Feb. 20, 2018.

Expense projections were increased by 1%, but the township is currently negotiating terms of the rubbish contract with Republic Service.

Water Fund

Holtz reported revenue projections were increased by 33.6% and this is directly related to the infusion from the Royalties Fund to cover the refinanced Debt Service (\$232,000) and an increase to water/sewer rates of \$13.5%.

(continued on page 11)



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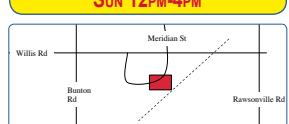
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Brown-Chudzinski earns national advance planning certification

The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) has granted the nationally-recognized Certified Preplanning Consultant (CPC) designation to Shelly A. Brown-Chudzinski of David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

The CPC certification program is considered the standard of excellence in funeral service for individuals who help families plan funerals, memorial services and other life tribute events in advance.

NFDA's Certified Preplanning Consultant program, established in 1997, recognizes qualified, knowledgeable individuals who are committed to provide ethical and caring advance planning services for all families.

"Those who have earned the CPC designation have achieved a unique career distinction that is highly valued by families that want to plan meaningful funerals in advance," said Carmella Hansen, NFDA's director of education.

In order to become a Certified Preplanning Consultant, candidates must meet specific program requirements and pass an examination based on a standards manual. CPCs must demonstrate their ongoing professional commitment by fulfilling specific requirements as they renew their certification every four years.

Shelly has been in the business since she was 8 years old, helping her dad with cleaning and landscaping. She grew up in the apartment above the funeral home. She has been working full time with her father



Brown-Chudzinski

since 1999.

She received her Bachelor of Mortuary Science degree from Wayne State University in 2001. She has earned several achievements through the Death Care Industry. She's also a Certified Crematory Operator and a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner. She is currently working on achieving her NFDA Green Funeral Practices Certificate.

For more information on Pre-Planning, Cremation Options, or Green Burials, call Shelly Brown-Chudzinski, at (734) 697-4500.

NFDA is the world's leading and largest funeral service association, serving 19,700 individual members who represent more than 10,000 funeral homes in the United States and 49 countries around the world.

NFDA offers funeral professionals comprehensive educational resources, tools to manage successful businesses, guidance to become pillars in their communities and the expertise to foster future generations of funeral professionals.

NFDA is headquartered in Brookfield, WI, and has an office in Washington, D.C. For more information, contact (800) 228-6332 or visit www.nfda.org.

Mallory Winner graduates from Davenport University

Davenport University has announced that Mallory Winner of Belleville has officially completed a degree in business, technology, health professions or urban education at the end of the Fall 2017 semester.

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“PORSHA”



Petite, pretty and playful, **Porsha's** got it all! She might be a little reserved until she knows you but afterwards she loves seeking out pets and playtime. Her likes include chasing after fun toys, hunting laser beam lights, cat napping in warm spots and gobbling up yummy food. Her dislikes include too much noise, not getting pets when she wants them and finding her food dish empty. **Porsha** is fairly laid-back and will prefer a fur-ever home without a lot of crazy activity or busy kids. She would also like you to know that she keeps her mostly black coat shiny and healthy and won't need much grooming help aside from a good brushing once in awhile. There's no reason pretty **Porsha** won't make a "purr-fect" furry companion in the right home so call today to come meet her. She's spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.

Sumpter budget

(continued from page 9)

Expense projections were increased 4.1% and this is directly related to an increase in maintenance projections of 2% and a projected water increase from Great Lakes Water Authority of 2%.

Water fund expenditures planned include \$35,000 to rehabilitate the Martinsville Wet Well and \$10,000 to replace the Vensorb Odor Control at the Sumpter Road Wet Well.

Sumpter Treasurer Peggy Morgan questioned the \$26,000 in the fire budget to fix up a water tanker truck that is 25 years old.

Fire Chief Joe Januszyk said it would be better to go out for bids and get the new fire truck now instead of spending money on an old truck. He asked if there was a possible grant for a truck.

Holtz said just because it was in the budget didn't mean it had to be spent on fixing Truck #31. He said there could be a possible loan from the royalty fund. They could keep interest to a minimum and pay it to the royalty fund.

Township attorney Rob Young noted that more than \$100,000 was saved in "audit" payments in the new budget.

Holtz said there had been a full-time accountant for the township from Ron Traskos' office that did the normal day-to-day accounting services, about the last two years.

Holtz said he now does those services as part of his job.

Trustee Matthew Oddy said when the township went out for a new financial director, they wanted him to bring those services in house.

Treasurer Morgan said Holtz should get a board agenda before expenditures are approved, referring to the last meeting where the board approved a salary raise for the new public safety director before

telling Holtz about it.

"I will work with Dawn (Deputy Clerk Hadyniak) and Esther (Clerk Hurst) to stay up to date on what's going on," he said.

Fire Chief Januszyk said the 1993 Engine went out of certification five years ago and in 2020 another goes out of certification. He said if you refurbish one for \$150,000 it would give it a 10-year extension, but in 2028 both engines will be out of certification.

He said two trucks would cost about \$1 million.

Treasurer Morgan asked Chief Januszyk for his opinion on the budgeted repairs.

He said two years ago he paid \$8,000 for a repair and, "I got my head ripped off."

Now they want to spend \$30,000 on something that they are going to get rid of, he said.

He said it's supposed to be \$26,000, but while you're working on an old vehicle, other stuff falls apart.

Trustee Don LaPorte, board liaison to the police and fire departments, said if they aren't going to keep it, they shouldn't fix it. He asked if there was enough equipment at both stations and Januszyk said there was.

He said they stripped #31 and put it in #51 and they just got approval from the state.

Young said if they have enough coverage without that engine, the \$26,000 doesn't have to be spent.

Januszyk said he thinks the \$26,000 should be put towards the new engine.

Mary Ban asked about the library money that has been set aside and Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis said the township is saving the library money for the inside furniture for the media center to be created in the hexagon building across from the township hall.

Young said an April 6 meeting with representatives of the library has been set up to work on the details.

At the end of the regular meeting, resident Mary Ban asked if the library is trying to

(continued on page 15)

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The Pucks for Pets hockey game between a team of police officers and firefighters from Romulus, Garden City, Van Buren Township, Inkster and Taylor (plus the Michigan State Police) vs. the Detroit Red Wings Alumni will be April 14 at the Taylor Sportsplex. Proceeds benefit the Romulus Animal Shelter, which serves Romulus, Garden City, Van Buren and Inkster. This is a team photo of the Detroit Red Wings Alumni. The official Wings roster will be determined closer to game day.

Red Wings Alumni challenge police in benefit hockey game

The Romulus Animal Shelter will benefit from a charity hockey game between the Detroit Red Wings Alumni and members of local police and fire officials at 4 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at the Taylor Sportsplex, 13333 Telegraph Road.

Fans will meet some Red Wings alumni players and have a chance to get autographs during intermission. There will be 50/50 raffles and other activities.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Children ages 5 and under will be admitted free. Tickets are available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Romulus Police Department, 11165 Olive Street, and tickets can be purchased online at www.facebook.com/RomulusPD. (Click "Events" and then "Get Tickets," which will direct you to the Eventrite page.)

The Romulus Animal Shelter, located at 12300 Wayne Road, also serves the communities of Garden City, Inkster and Van Buren Township. The shelter relies on fundraisers, donations and volunteers.

Playing for the "Romulus Police" team will be public safety representatives from Romulus, Garden City, Inkster, Van Buren Township, Taylor and MSP.

The roster includes Chris Kososki, Eric Harris, Keith Haynes, Kevin Ladach,

Andrew Carriger and Darryl Nippes of the Romulus Police Department; Matt Raschke of the Van Buren Police Department; Alex Dzagulones, John Tibaud, Chad Lindstrom and Dan Powers of the Michigan State Police; Jake Fedel of the Inkster Fire Department; Tom Windel of the Garden City Fire Department; and Russ McNamee of the Taylor Fire Department.

The game has been organized by Romulus police Corporal Kososki, Ordinance Director Bonnie Freeman and Recreation Director Tanya Cofield.

"There are a lot of organizations that play the Red Wings Alumni for various reasons," said Cpl. Kososki. "We thought it would be great to raise funds for our Animal Shelter and invite police and firefighters from all of the communities served by the shelter. There are a lot of people in Van Buren, Garden City and Inkster that don't know the Romulus shelter serves them. This is a chance for everyone to show their support and have a fun afternoon."

Kososki said the Animal Shelter does so much for the animals and community.

"Not only do they take sick and injured dogs and other animals off the street, but they provide a lot of adoptions," he said. "It's a great way to give dogs and cats a second chance."

Kososki said he adopted two stray dogs during his 12 years with the Inkster Police Department. He is going on six years with Romulus.

Kososki said the playing level of the public safety team ranges from novice to experienced, including a former college and USA select player. Kososki himself is currently in two hockey leagues, including a public safety league he started out of Brownstown. His son is a travel hockey player and his daughter is a figure skater.

"We're out for camaraderie, laughs and exercise," he said. "Ultimately, we'll be out to support the animal shelter and play hockey."

Kososki said everyone on the public

safety team is looking forward to suiting up against the former professional hockey players that will make up the Red Wings team. The roster will be determined prior to game time.

"Everyone involved with this is loving it," said Romulus Ordinance Officer Freeman. "In addition to raising money to support the Animal Shelter, it gives the city a chance to network with departments from other communities. We're hoping we can do it annually."

For more information, call Cpl. Kososki at (734) 955-8816 or Director Freeman at (734) 955-8810 or search for "Puck for Pets" on Facebook.



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Children searched for candy by age groups during Saturday's Easter event at Victory Park.



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Otzman
Scarlette Kolpacki, 6, at left and Juliet Kolpacki, 9, visited Flop E Bunny on Saturday at Victory Park in Belleville to pose for a picture and search for candy in the candy hunt. The event is put on each year by the Belleville Central Business Community and sponsors.

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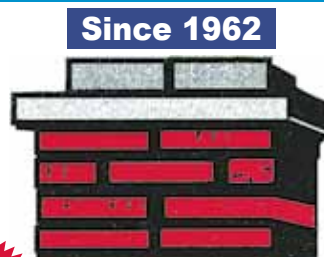
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(continued from page 3)

information. Several local photographers were mentioned. “We’ll get it,” Kollmeyer said;

- Heard Councilman Fielder say that he wanted everyone to notice they just paid \$4,000 in repairs on city hall and they can’t keep putting money into an old building. The council will have to make some significant decisions in the future, he said;

- Heard crossing guard Mary Talaga asked why the city has stopped paying her vacation days for the days after Christmas and Easter, the way she had been paid since 2004. “I get 10 paid holidays. Why were two taken away?” Kollmeyer said she’s contacted the school to ask how they paid their crossing guards. “We need to get to the bottom of this,” she said. Kollmeyer said Easter is not on this payroll and they can get it straightened out by the following payroll;

- Heard Loranger say he went to the Ford Lake Dam meeting and learned nobody had contacted them about the proposed

lowering of Belleville Lake in 2019. He said the dam people should be told what the plans are and so should the city of Belleville; and

- Learned the deed transfer for the library will be on the next city council meeting agenda on April 16.

BHS Varsity Boys Golf wins first dual match

The Belleville High School Boys’ Golf Team defeated Garden City on March 28 at its home opener at Harbour Club.

These five players each recorded a victory: senior Nick Cooley, sophomore Mark Tittsworth, juniors Kenneth French and Travis Krueshlin, and freshman Evan Jonas.

Coach Martin said he was pleased with all the team members.

“You have to be odd to be number one.”
— Dr. Seuss

City of Belleville Public Notice

CITY OF BELLEVILLE Regular City Council Meeting Minutes Monday, March 19, 2018

A regular meeting of the Council for the City of Belleville was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 6 Main Street by Mayor Conley.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & MOMENT OF SILENCE.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Member Fielder	Present
Council Member Marcotte	Present
Council Member Smith	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Loria	Present
Mayor Conley	Present

3. PRESENTATIONS AND CITIZEN COMMENTS

Presentations	None
---------------	------

Council follow up list

Rick Rutherford provided the Council with a status update on the Doane’s Landing seawall repair and sidewalk repair projects

Citizen Comments

Bill Wolthers gave a brief update on the Belleville High School Robotics competition which will be held at Belleville High School March 23-24.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion by Loria, second by Smith to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Fielder, second by Loria to approve the regular City Council meeting minutes of March 5th, 2018 with one correction.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Medical Marihuana -- Repeal Ordinance 10-05: Applications, Permits and Fees

Motion by Marcotte, second by Loria to open a public hearing to repeal Ordinance No. 10-05 on Medical Marihuana applications, permits and fees at 7:38 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Seeing there were no public comments, Mayor Conley called for a motion to close the public hearing.

Motion by Marcotte, second by Loria to close the public hearing at 7:39 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES None

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Central Business Community: Farmers’ Market

Motion by Loria, second by Smith to adopt Resolution No. 18-030 approving the Farmers’ Market to be held in Fourth Street Square every

Monday from 3 to 8 p.m.

June 4th through September 24th, 2018.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Earth Day Celebration

Motion by Fielder, second by Smith to adopt Resolution No. 18-031 endorsing the Earth Day celebration/Park clean-up on April 18th, 2018 from 2:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Victory, Village and Horizon Parks.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. 2018 City Wide Yard Sale

Motion by Loria, second by Marcotte to adopt Resolution No. 18-032 approving the annual City Wide Yard Sale September 8th – 9th, 2018.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Fire Department: Fill the Boot for Autism Fire Chief Brian Loranger stated that the Belleville Firefighters’ Association plans to host this event in downtown Belleville.

Motion by Marcotte, second by Fielder to adopt Resolution No. 18-033 endorsing the 5th annual Fill the Boot for Autism fundraiser on April 2nd, 2018 at Main and High Streets from 1 to 7 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance 10-05, Medical Marihuana

Motion by Fielder, second by Smith to adopt Ordinance No. 18-002 approving the repeal of Ordinance 10-05, Medical Marihuana applications, permits and fees.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE & DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES

Motion by Marcotte, second by Loria to approve Resolution No. 18-034 for accounts payable and purchases over \$500.00 for a total of \$366,022.88.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jeff Vernon announced that the next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be held next Monday at 4 p.m. in City Hall.

Kelly Bates asked for an update on repairing the manhole covers on Columbia Ave.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Smith, Second by Marcotte to adjourn meeting at 8:00 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Scharf

City Clerk

Approved: April 2, 2018

Published: April 5, 2018

BELLEVILLE STRAWBERRY QUEEN PAGEANT 2018 ENTRY FORM



**Friday, June 15, 2018 at 7:30 PM – Belleville High School Auditorium
W. Columbia, Belleville, Mich.**

Name:

Address:

City:

Phone:

School currently attending:

Age:

Employment:

Parents Name:

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Sumpter Township Public Notice

**Sumpter Township
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 13, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
23480 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111
Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Morgan at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call: Supervisor: J. Morgan, Clerk: E. Hurst, Treasurer: P. Morgan, Trustees: Oddy, LaPorte, Swinson. Excused: Trustee Barnes. Also showing present: Attorney Young, Deputy Supervisor Armatis and approximately 13 audience members.

3. Agenda: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only: None.

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Hurst, supported by Oddy to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2018. Motion carried.

B. Motion by Oddy, supported by Swinson to accept the Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of February 8, 2018. Motion carried.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to approve the Warrants totaling \$1,

125,403.74. Roll Call vote: Ayes: J. Morgan, E. Hurst, P. Morgan, LaPorte, Oddy and Swinson. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Water & Sewer Report: Motion by Oddy, supported by Laporte to accept report as read. Motion carried. Report given on water bill snafu.

8. Police Report: Chief Luke stated only 1 officer could go to Staff and Command School due to class being full. Will come back in future to inform board when other 2 officers will be attending. Introduced new officer if voted on to be hired tonight as Michael Lezotte. Motion by Oddy, supported by P. Morgan to accept report as read. Motion carried.

9. Building/Ordinance Report: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to receive and file report. Motion carried.

10. Fire Report: Chief Januszyk stated 54 calls for month of February. Motion by Hurst, supported by P. Morgan to accept report as read. Motion carried.

11. Treasurer's Report: Motion by Hurst, supported by Oddy to accept report as read. Motion carried.

12. Supervisor's Report:

A. Quilt show at Museum until end of March.

B. Childrens Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 24, 2018 at Graham Park at noon.

C. Township hall will be closed Friday, March 30, 2018 in observance of Good Friday.

Motion by P. Morgan, supported by LaPorte to accept report as read. Motion carried.

13. Attorneys Report:

Closed session tonight to discuss District Library Lease, attorney's opinion letter and Republic contract attorney's opinion letter.

Also, Step 3 of grievance needs to be fulfilled regarding Buccellato termination.

Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to deny Step 3 of grievance regarding Buccellato termination. Motion carried.

Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to accept attorney's report. Motion carried.

14. Board Response: None

15. New Business:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Swinson to hire Michael Lezotte as a full-time Police Officer; contingent upon his successful completion of the following requirements: physical & psychological exam along with drug screening. Motion carried.

B. Motion by Hurst, supported by LaPorte to approve updated purchasing and bid policy as presented. Motion carried.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hurst to approve Modern Updates Construction as lowest bidder on repairs to the Parks & Recreation building, located at Graham Park in the amount of \$9,800; paid with Wayne County Grant monies. Motion carried.

D. Motion by Oddy, supported by Hurst to re-appoint Maria Beaudrie to Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire March 11, 2021. Motion carried.

E. Motion by Oddy, supported by P. Morgan to re-appoint Sheila Pederson to Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire March 11, 2021. Motion carried.

F. Motion by P. Morgan, no support to table the naming of Chief Eric Luke as the Director of Public Safety. Motion failed.

Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to name Police Chief Eric Luke as the Director of Public Safety/Police Chief. Motion carried. P. Morgan voted Nay.

Open Floor: One speaker.

Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to go into closed session to discuss attorney opinion letter on Republic contract and attorney opinion letter on District Library Lease. Roll Call vote: Ayes: J. Morgan, Hurst, P. Morgan, LaPorte, Oddy and Swinson. Motion carried.

Motion by Oddy, supported by Hurst to come back

into regular session. Motion carried.

Motion by Swinson, supported by LaPorte to adjourn at 8:01 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Esther Hurst
Clerk
Sumpter Township

Certification

I, Esther Hurst, Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the following is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Township of Sumpter Board of Trustees on March 13, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that the said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Esther Hurst, Clerk
Publish: April 5, 2018

Sumpter budget

(continued from page 11)

back down on plans for the Sumpter media center.

Young said after the vote failed for the original proposal the plans were scaled down and the focus was on a media center in Sumpter. He said they will not have a lot of books, but they will have a large screen and a number of computer stations and they will interface with the library downtown.

Ban recalled seeing a big bookmobile from the Ypsilanti Township library and said, "I hope we're not getting a bookmobile."

Young assured her they weren't.



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Publish: April 5, 2018, April 12, 2018

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Photo courtesy of Richard Smith

Family Peace & Harmony Through Estate Planning Free Seminar on Wednesday, April 25, 2018

6 p.m. – 7 p.m. @ Van Buren Twp. Community Center
 Participants receive a \$100 Discount on a Basic Estate Planning Package.
 For more information, contact:



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They're reading the Independent everywhere

Michael Kasperek of Van Buren Township and family read their *Independent* in the Bahamas on March 2.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$30 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$35 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

Fire

(continued from page 1)

corner of Madelon and Robbe, 1,100 feet away, that could produce more water.

He said when Romulus Fire Department brought its ladder truck, the water could be directed down onto the roof which put out the flames.

According to city records, the house was built in 1930 and was purchased last October by Gale Rich and Jonathan Myers from Jerry and Lori Dummman.

Chief Loranger said the brick home at the corner of Roland and Angola streets is a total loss. It is insured.

No one was injured in the fire, he said.

At Monday's city council meeting, crossing guard Mary Talaga said a fourth-grade boy who attends Edgemont Elementary School lived in that house.

Chief Loranger said the Chudzinskis brought clothes over for the family, since they lost everything. Even though they have insurance, right now they are in need and a Go Fund Me page is being set up to help them.

"The vital measure of a newspaper is not its size, but its spirit."
 — Arthur Hays Salzberger

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 All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
 This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 390 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for the past week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, March 25:
0045 -- 911 welfare check, Peachtree Ln.
0107 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0339 -- suspicious person/vehicle, French Landing Dam

0510 -- property damage accident, WB I-94 / Belleville Rd.
0907 -- animal complaint, Venetian Ave.
0953 -- malicious destruction of property, Victoria
1315 -- disorderly, Tyler Rd.
1321 -- property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
1327 -- 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1349 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1519 -- family trouble, Andover Dr.
1826 -- traffic offense, Amanda Dr./Lindsey Dr.
1956 -- property damage accident, Station
2026 -- juvenile complaint, Bemis Rd.
2038 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
2112 -- noise complaint, Farm Rd.
2249 -- property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Belleville Rd.
2318 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Monterey Dr.

Monday, March 26:
0107 -- assist other dept., Belleville Rd.
0201 -- malicious destruction of property, Lighthouse Dr.
0433 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Edison Lake
0623 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
0718 -- property damage accident, Tyler/Belleville
1052 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1120 -- traffic offense, Independence Ln. / Haggerty Rd.

1247 -- civil matter, Chaney Ave.
1336 -- assist other dept., Anna Dr.
1346 -- animal complaint, Quirk Rd./Ayres Ave.
1433 -- breaking & entering, Oak Ln.
1437 -- breaking & entering, Oak Ln.
1443 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1533 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Harmony Ln.
1602 -- traffic offense, Rawsonville Rd.
1608 -- disorderly, E. Huron River Dr.
1618 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1630 -- juvenile complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1658 -- harassment call, Lake Point Blvd.
1712 -- fraud, W. Huron River Dr.
1831 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Victoria St.
1902 -- suicidal person, Robson Rd.
2139 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler/Beck
2210 -- shooting, Borgman Ave.
2229 -- animal complaint, Hull Rd.
2255 -- hospice death, Locust Dr.

Tuesday, March 27:
0330 -- retail fraud, Belleville
0752 -- fraud, Meadows Ct.
0858 -- malicious destruction of property, E. Huron River Dr.

0909 -- found property/child, Tyler Rd.
0931 -- threat, Hayes St.
1037 -- abandoned auto, Ecorse Rd./Marlowe Ave.
1211 -- family trouble, Ormond Dr.
1549 -- mental subject, Chloe Ct.
1647 -- traffic offense, Haggerty/I-94
1825 -- larceny, E. Archwood Dr.
1840 -- breaking & entering, Belleville Rd.
1922 -- disorderly, W. Huron River Dr.
1944 -- shooting, Belle Ridge

Wednesday, March 28:
0046 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Lake Point Blvd.
0106 -- domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0219 -- assist other dept., Belleville/Michigan
0846 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
0944 -- 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0958 -- ordinance violation, Independence
1123 -- harassment call, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1208 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Purple Sage Ct.
1240 -- assist other dept., Denton Rd.
1305 -- larceny, Alden Ave.
1543 -- malicious destruction of property, Rebecca Ct.

1547 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Madison Dr.
1554 -- shooting, Haggerty Rd./Bemis Rd.
1609 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Elwell Rd.
1749 -- suicidal person, Marina Dr.

1813 -- property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
2048 -- domestic, EB I-94/Belleville Rd.
2124 -- harassment call, Winding Pond Dr.
2142 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Kirkridge
2240 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Sawgrass Ct.

Thursday, March 29:
0254 -- trespassing, Fret Rd.
0630 -- disorderly, Haggerty Rd.
0815 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, W. Adams

1012 -- assist other dept., Sumpter Rd.
1201 -- fraud, Park Estates Dr.
1420 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler Rd.
1440 -- domestic, Maple Dr.
1451 -- 911 welfare check, Village Green Ln.
1601 -- traffic offense, Ecorse Rd./Denton Rd.
1805 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1841 -- domestic, Kirkridge Park Dr.
2045 -- domestic, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2130 -- noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.
2138 -- fraud, Lighthouse Dr.
2151 -- trespassing, Sylvia Dr.
2214 -- family trouble, Coolidge St.

Friday, March 30:
0010 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Martinsville Rd. / Fret Rd.

0650 -- road hazard, Belleville Rd./Westlake Cir.
0803 -- larceny, Van Born
1222 -- assist other dept., Harbour Pointe
1227 -- breaking & entering, Denton Rd.
1234 -- domestic, W. I-94/rest area
1301 -- malicious destruction of property, Jackson
1320 -- threat, Savage Rd.
1418 -- family trouble, Andover Dr.
1532 -- retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1555 -- larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1600 -- fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1609 -- found property/child, Sumpter Rd./Hull
1838 -- retail fraud, Belleville
1852 -- noise complaint, Maple Dr.
2130 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville
2226 -- traffic offense, Ecorse/I-275
2331 -- assist other dept., Potter Ct.
2343 -- property damage accident, Denton Rd. / Van Allen Ave.

Saturday, March 31:
0029 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Beck Rd.
0116 -- leaving the scene of a property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0154 -- family trouble, Richard Run Dr.
0949 -- harassment call, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1220 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Brookside Dr. / Pebblebrook Dr.

1457 -- animal complaint, Sheldon Rd.
1538 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1543 -- lost property/child, Belleville Rd.
1625 -- suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
1654 -- robbery, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1945 -- noise complaint, Rawsonville Rd./Bog Rd.
2207 -- trespassing, Fred Rd.
2228 -- noise complaint, Denton Rd.
2250 -- noise complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Also on this week's log are 123 traffic stops, three of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 25:
0244 -- traffic offense, Sumpter/Hull
0701 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.
2047 -- traffic offense, Belleville/Quirk

Monday, March 26:
0114 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Harbour Pointe
0914 -- disorderly, McBride Ave.
1055 -- traffic offense, Savage Road tracks
1139 -- assist fire dept., Santa Clara St.
1624 -- disorderly, Faith Assembly
1705 -- assist citizen, Main St.
2227 -- welfare check, Loza Ln.
2230 -- domestic, Dos Rios St.

Tuesday, March 27:
0105 -- parking complaint, Carmell St.
1110 -- PPO violation, Carmell St.
1113 -- welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1231 -- warrant arrest, Main St.
1546 -- assist citizen, Main St.

Wednesday, March 28:
0854 -- assist fire dept., Light Tower Dr.
1115 -- warrant arrest, W. Columbia Ave.
1303 -- vehicle lockout, Main St.

1619 -- vehicle lockout, W. Columbia Ave.
1628 -- welfare check, Bell Cove Ct.
1637 -- warrant arrest, Main St.

Thursday, March 29:
0754 -- narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
0821 -- narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1319 -- parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
1333 -- narcotics crime, Main St.
1452 -- disorderly, McBride Ave.
1504 -- intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.

Friday, March 30:
0919 -- assist fire dept., Harbour Pointe Dr.
1211 -- assist fire dept., Harbour Pointe Dr.
1410 -- property damage accident, Main St.
1551 -- assist fire dept., Roland St.

1802 -- property damage accident, Sumpter / E. Columbia Ave.
1807 -- welfare check, Loza Ln.
1812 -- intrusion alarm, N. Biggs Ave.
2133 -- assist fire dept., Roland St.
2328 -- suicidal person, Potter Ct.
2349 -- noise complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.

Saturday, March 31:
0900 -- 911 welfare check, Main St.
1258 -- juvenile complaint, Owen St.
1340 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
1349 -- found property/child, Main St.
1801 -- malicious destruction, Main St.
1934 -- warrant arrest, S. I-94 Service
Also on this week's log were 78 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, March 25:
0002 -- well-being check, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
0340 -- family trouble, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1352 -- reckless driver, Sumpter/Willis
1650 -- suspicious incident, Rustic Ln.
2008 -- animal complaint, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.
2053 -- leaving the scene of the property damage accident, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.

2333 -- juvenile complaint, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
Monday, March 26:
0039 -- harassment complaint, 19000 bl. Crandell Ct.

0801 -- fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0856 -- traffic hazard, Willis/Karr
1140 -- animal complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.
1155 -- ordinance violation, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1350 -- missing person, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1414 -- animal complaint, 28000 bl. Martinsville
1554 -- reckless driver, Willis/Haggerty
1626 -- suspicious incident, 48000 bl. Sully Dr.
1628 -- reckless driver, Martinsville/Bemis

1844 -- mental health commitment, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.

1925 -- fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
Tuesday, March 27:
1017 -- noise complaint, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
1232 -- noise complaint, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
1322 -- larceny, Tulip
1705 -- threats complaint, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1706 -- alarm, 46000 bl. Wear Rd.

Wednesday, March 28:
0838 -- 911 hang up, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.
0952 -- mental health commitment, 23000 Elwell
1141 -- noise complaint, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
1302 -- suspicious person, 47000 bl. Bemis Rd.
1347 -- civil dispute, 20000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1616 -- animal complaint, Arkona/Martinsville
1821 -- suspicious person, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
1930 -- breaking & entering report, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Thursday, March 29:
1056 -- identity theft, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1126 -- suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Paris Dr.
1438 -- property damage accident, 8100 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1640 -- assault, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Friday, March 30:
0100 -- suspicious person, 19000 bl. Sherwood
0848 -- citizen assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0916 -- citizen assist, Carriage Ln.
0941 -- 911 hang up, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1018 -- citizen assist, Second St.
1103 -- 911 hang up, 26000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1319 -- fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1324 -- harassment complaint, 41000 bl. Willis
1354 -- 911 hang up, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1523 -- citizen assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1709 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1719 -- citizen assist, Carriage Ln.
1730 -- citizen assist, Knollwood
1754 -- citizen assist, Wyoming

Saturday, March 31:
0138 -- curfew violation, Savage/Bemis
0802 -- fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
0816 -- noise complaint, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
1049 -- animal complaint, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
1141 -- citizen assist, Redwood
1204 -- dumping complaint, 27000 bl. Karr Rd.
1253 -- assist other agency, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1345 -- operating while intoxicated arrest, 29000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1557 -- fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
2050 -- fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Kozma Rd.
2234 -- operating while intoxicated arrest, Savage / Harris

Also on this week's log are five follow-up investigations, 25 miscellaneous details, 119 patrol checks, and 28 traffic stops.

Landstrom sentenced to five days in jail after jury finds him guilty

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Former Van Buren Township fire fighter Kenneth Joseph Landstrom was sentenced to five days in jail by 34th District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley in his courtroom on March 29.

The charges against Landstrom were one count of lying to a VBT police officer (Lt. Ken Floro) and one count of contributing to the delinquency of a minor (his former stepdaughter), both misdemeanors, last June in VBT.

A jury trial was held Feb. 9 before Judge Oakley and the jury found him guilty of both charges. Landstrom was sent to the district court's probation department for a pre-sentence report and recommendation for the judge before sentencing.

Landstrom also had been charged with lying to VBT Officer David Champagne and Sgt. A. Smith, but those charges were dropped and consolidated into the one charge.

Judge Oakley was upset with Landstrom for not staying away from the girl, who has since turned 17, who had been at the center of the criminal charges. The girl's father Danny Rogers told Judge Oakley that Landstrom had sent messages to his family members with a picture of the girl at the top. Since cell phones are not allowed at 34th District Court, Judge Oakley asked the father to go out to his car to get his cell phone and show him, which he did.

While Landstrom did not send the messages to her, he meant it for her to see, Judge Oakley said. He had ordered no contact. Judge Oakley then sentenced him to five days in jail and Landstrom was immediately taken into custody to begin his sentence.

Robert Coutts was the retained defense attorney.

“Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach eighteen.”

Mark Twain

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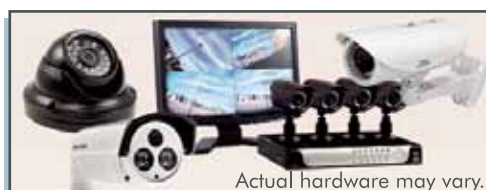
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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Today's paper features the official entry form for the 2018 Strawberry Queen Pageant Contest sent for festival weekend here in town, June 15-17. The form can be clipped, filled out and mailed to the address in the rules paragraph. Applicants who complete the entry form will be eligible for scholarships, trophies and other gifts. Check out the display ad for the complete requirements and other details.

Bob's Garage Door Repair LLC of Belleville has been a family owned and operated business for more than 40 years. Google them to read lot of good reviews and call (734) 301-5959.

Wiese's Lawn Care Inc. is a full-service local company gearing up for the upcoming lawn-cutting season. They're licensed and insured, too. Call owner Bryan Wiese at (734) 699-4399.

Belleville Frosty Boy Ice Cream on Main Street in Downtown Belleville is now open for the season with their delicious ice cream treats, shakes, slushies, sundaes, and a whole lot more. Non-fat, non-dairy, and sugar free items are also available. Call (734) 699-7188.

Troy Fairley is a local realtor expert with Remerica Main Street Realty on Belleville Road and will get you started with selling or searching for a home. Call (734) 697-2450 or (734) 419-4927. Visit their website at www.remericainst.com

National Library Week kicks off April 8-14 and our very own Belleville Area District Library will feature special library-themed events to celebrate. Family story time is set for next Monday, April 9, Toddler story time will follow April 10 and 12, and a special homegrown knowledge program is set for April 12, featuring the history of the Belleville Library. Then on Saturday, April 14, the new library groundbreaking ceremony will take place beginning at 11 a.m. There will be a cake and refreshments served and special prizes for children. Call (734) 699-3291.

Tickets are still available for the 2018 Spring Fashion Show on Wednesday, April 11, at 6 p.m. at the Woodlands of Van Buren Golf Course on Ecorse Road. Tickets are \$40 and are available from any Belleville Area Women's Club member or at Garden Fantasy on Main Street. Cocktails will be served at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., and the fashion show at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will benefit the club's community and education fund.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

Willow Methodist Church invites all to clothing giveaway

The Willow United Methodist Church is inviting the community to its eighth-annual Free-Style boutique clothing giveaway from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 21.

Willow Church is hosting its free, gently used clothing event to benefit anyone in the nearby communities struggling to afford these items.

Just show up, take what is needed, and pass it on-- no questions asked.

The event is in the Fellowship Hall in the basement of the church at 36925 Willow Road, New Boston 48164, www.willowchurch.org, (734) 654-9020.

While browsing, the public is invited to grab a free snack at "Nickster's Brew & Crew" snack bar.

Clean clothing, clothing accessories, shoes, bedding and purses only will be accepted as donations to the event through April 8. No items will be accepted past these dates so there is time to prepare them for the event.

For any questions, call the church or email farmerwilson@gmail.com.

*"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging."
- Will Rogers*

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK is APRIL 8-14, 2018

JOIN US FOR SPECIAL LIBRARY-THEMED PROGRAMMING THIS WEEK!

FAMILY STORY TIME: APRIL 9, 6:30 PM

Stories, songs, and crafts for kids 4 & up and their families. Registration required.

TODDLER STORY TIMES: APRIL 10 & 12, 11 AM

Toddler-focused story times with books, songs, and crafts. Registration required.

BOOKBINDING CLASS: APRIL 11, 7 PM

Make your own book using a Japanese stab binding technique. All ages 8 & up. Registration required.

HOMEGROWN KNOWLEDGE: APRIL 12, 7 PM

Special guest speakers share the history of the library from its very beginning!

NEW LIBRARY GROUNDBREAKING: APRIL 14, 11 AM

What we've all been waiting for! Join us for the ceremonial breaking of ground for the new library site. All are invited to this family-friendly event. There will be cake, refreshments, and special prizes for kids.

LIBRARIES LEAD

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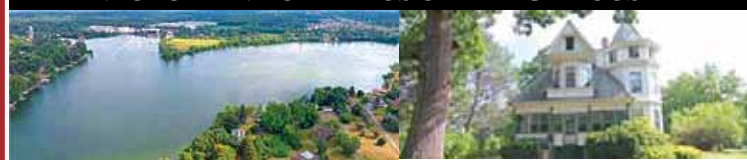
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10047 WILLIS ROAD, WILLIS

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